

MEMORANDUM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLYTHE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON*4 ok Chum
Will not call*SECRET

June 22, 1971

MORI/CDF C05140480
Pages 1-2

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER *H*

SUBJECT:

Financing Radio Free Europe
and Radio Liberty

You agreed yesterday to call Chairman Ellender of the Senate Appropriations Committee to try to persuade him to acquiesce in the continued funding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty via the CIA appropriation as an interim arrangement under the continuing resolution. Congressman Mahon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, agreed yesterday to such an arrangement. Senator Ellender, however, now reportedly wants to introduce legislation specifically prohibiting continued funding under the CIA appropriation.

Nevertheless, I believe there is a 50-50 chance that Senator Ellender will change his mind if you intercede. Because of the complications of USIA funding or other "open" alternatives, it is important to employ Presidential pressure even though the outcome is uncertain.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you call Senator Ellender using the attached Talking Points (Tab A) requesting his acquiescence in continuing the present funding arrangement for Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

*P. will not call unless he is
assured that the call will cause
Ellender to acquiesce. Post Script*

SECRET

TALKING POINTS

-- You are calling concerning an interim arrangement for funding Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe after June 30, 1971 because you understand the Senator may want to prohibit continuation of the present arrangement.

-- The Administration, in its bill to establish the American Council for Private International Communications, Inc., accepted the principle of overt grants to Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. The Council would account to the Congress and its responsible committees for proper use of grants.

-- Although some feel these Radios are an anachronism in the 1970's, you believe that these operations remain relevant and essential:

- . Because of the controlled media in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, these Radios provide information which is not normally available to citizens of those countries.

- . These stations have a large audience, particularly during periods of crisis, and it is important that this source of information not be interrupted.

- . The Voice of America does not have the flexibility to provide the range of information of RFE and RL. The private nature of the Radios enables them to provide objective reports and independent comment, free of the charge of speaking for the U.S. Government and thus complicating diplomatic relations.

-- We have explored various 'open' means for interim funding and believe there is no desirable alternative to the Administration's bill before the Congress at the present time.

-- You, therefore, want Senator Ellender to accept on a temporary basis the funding of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe via CIA under the continuing resolution until the Administration bill or an acceptable alternate is approved by the Congress.

-- You understand Congressman Mahon is agreeable to this arrangement.

-- Since it is now well known that this is the existing arrangement there is no longer any validity to charges that the Radios are being secretly funded.

-- Because of the drawbacks to other temporary arrangements you hope that the Senator will not oppose a continuation of the present procedure and will lend his backing to the Administration's bill to create a corporation.

- 2 -

If Senator Ellender remains adamantly opposed to CIA funding you should request his support for "open" funding via the USIA appropriation by indicating that:

-- In light of Senator Ellender's strong views you are reluctantly willing to support explicit funding of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe under the continuing resolution for USIA.

-- Would Senator Ellender support this temporary arrangement for open funding? You urge that he do so to permit consideration of the Administration's proposal for a permanent open funding arrangement.

Retyped page 2 of talking points:RTK:feg:6/23/71